WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of operating an electrographic printing machine, comprising:

transferring toner to a first receiver sheet of a first size, the transferred toner being in a pattern corresponding to an image to be printed on the first receiver sheet;

placing the first receiver sheet in contact with the surface of a fuser roller at a first position, to fuse the transferred toner to the first receiver sheet;

then transferring toner to a second receiver sheet also of the first size, the transferred toner being in a pattern corresponding to an image to be printed on the second receiver sheet; and

placing the second receiver sheet in contact with the surface of the fuser roller at a second position, to fuse the transferred toner to the second receiver sheet.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second positions of the surface of the fuser roller correspond to first and second cross-track starting points, respectively, along the surface of the fuser roller in a direction parallel with a major axis of the fuser roller.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the transferring steps comprise:

adhering toner to a selected portion of a photoconductor in a pattern corresponding to the image pattern to be printed; and

placing the receiver sheet in contact with the selected portion of the photoconductor in such a manner that the toner transfers from the selected portion of the photoconductor to the receiver sheet.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the adhering step comprises:

charging at least the selected portion of a photoconductor;

modifying the charge at selected locations of the selected portion of the photoconductor according to the image to be printed; and

placing toner in proximity to the selected portion of the photoconductor, so that the toner is electrostatically attracted to the selected portion of the photoconductor in a pattern corresponding to the image to be printed.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the photoconductor is a belt.

6. The method of claim 4, wherein, for the image to be printed on the first receiver sheet, the modifying step is performed at a selected portion of the photoconductor at a first cross-track position of the photoconductor;

and wherein, for the image to be printed on the second receiver sheet, the modifying step is performed at a selected portion of the photoconductor at a second cross-track position of the photoconductor.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the first and second positions of the surface of the fuser roller correspond to first and second cross-track starting points, respectively, along the surface of the fuser roller in a direction parallel with a major axis of the fuser roller.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein, for the first receiver sheet, the placing step places the first receiver sheet in contact with the selected portion of the photoconductor at the first cross-track position of the photoconductor;

and wherein, for the second receiver sheet, the placing step places the second receiver sheet in contact with the selected portion of the photoconductor at the second cross-track position of the photoconductor.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

applying a release oil to a surface of the fuser roller.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of applying a release oil is performed substantially continuously.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

repeating the transferring toner and placing steps for a plurality of receiver sheets that are also of the first size;

wherein the placing step places each successive receiver sheet in contact with the surface of the fuser roller at a different position that that of a preceding receiver sheet.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the first receiver sheet is one of a first plurality of receiver sheets of the first size and the second receiver sheet is one of a second plurality of receiver sheets of the first size;

wherein each of the first plurality of receiver sheets are printed in successive sequence, with the placing step placing each successive receiver sheet of the first plurality of receiver sheets in contact with the surface of the fuser roller at the first position;

and wherein each of the second plurality of receiver sheets are printed in successive sequence, with the placing step placing each successive receiver sheet of the second plurality of receiver sheets in contact with the surface of the fuser roller at the second position.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

changing the position at which the placing step places each receiver sheet from the first position to the second position responsive to printing a selected number of receiver sheets in the first plurality of receiver sheets.

14. The method of claim 12, further comprising:

changing the position at which the placing step places each receiver sheet from the first position to the second position responsive to changing from a first paper supply to a second paper supply.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of placing the first receiver sheet comprises:

prior to the step of transferring toner to the first receiver sheet, controlling a registration station to position the first receiver sheet at a first cross-track position;

then feeding the first receiver sheet at the first cross-track position to a transfer station; and

after the step of transferring toner to the first receiver sheet, feeding the first receiver sheet at the first cross-track position to the first position at the fuser roller;

and wherein the step of placing the second receiver sheet comprises:

prior to the step of transferring toner to the second receiver sheet, controlling the registration station to position the second receiver sheet at a second cross-track position;

then feeding the second receiver sheet at the second cross-track position to the transfer station; and

after the step of transferring toner to the second receiver sheet, feeding the second receiver sheet at the second cross-track position to the second position at the fuser roller.

16. A printing machine, comprising:

a photoconductor;

an exposure station, for effecting a charge pattern at a portion of the photoconductor, the charge pattern corresponding to an image to be printed;

a developer station, for electrostatically adhering toner to the photoconductor in a toner pattern corresponding to the charge pattern effected by the exposure station;

a transfer station, for transferring toner in the toner pattern from the photoconductor to a receiver sheet; and

a fuser station, comprising a fuser roller, for applying pressure to the receiver sheet so that the toner fuses to the receiver sheet in the toner pattern; and

a control function, for controlling the position of receiver sheets at the surface of the fuser roller, the control function programmed so that a first receiver sheet of a first size contacts the fuser roller at a first cross-track position, and so that a second receiver sheet of the first size contacts the fuser roller at a second cross-track position.

17. The printing machine of claim 16, wherein the transfer station transfers toner from the photoconductor to a receiver sheet by placing the receiver sheet in proximity to the portion of the photoconductor bearing the toner pattern.

18. The printing machine of claim 17, further comprising:

a registration station, for controlling the positioning of receiver sheets at the transfer station;

wherein the control function controls the position of receiver sheets at the surface of the fuser roller by controlling the exposure station to effect the charge pattern corresponding to the image to be printed in an image area beginning at a selected cross-track position of the photoconductor, and by controlling the registration station to place the receiver sheet at the transfer station in proximity to the portion of the photoconductor bearing the toner pattern at a selected cross-track position of the photoconductor.

19. The printing machine of claim 18, wherein the control function comprises a programmable control and logic unit.

20. The printing machine of claim 19, wherein the programmable control and logic unit is programmed to control the exposure station and registration station to select a first cross-track position for a selected number of receiver sheets, and to select a second cross-track position for a selected number of receiver sheets.

21. The printing machine of claim 19, wherein the programmable control and logic unit is programmed to change the selected cross-track positions responsive to a change in supply of the receiver sheets.

22. The printing machine of claim 16, wherein the control function comprises a programmable control and logic unit.

23. The printing machine of claim 22, wherein the programmable control and logic unit is programmed to control the exposure station and registration station to select a first cross-track position for a selected number of receiver sheets, and to select a second cross-track position for a selected number of receiver sheets.

24. The printing machine of claim 22, wherein the programmable control and logic unit is programmed to change the selected cross-track positions responsive to a change in supply of the receiver sheets.

25. The printing machine of claim 16, wherein the fuser station further comprises:

a release oil supply, for applying a film of release oil to the surface of the fuser roller.

26. The printing machine of claim 25, wherein the fuser station further comprises:

a heater for heating the fuser roller.

27. The printing machine of claim 25, wherein the fuser station further comprises:

a pressure roller, opposing and contacting the fuser roller at a nip location through which the receiver sheet passes to fuse the toner thereto.

* * * * *